

## Rep. Baird Statement on Admins 2006 Meth Strategy (June 1, 2006)

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Brian Baird, a national leader in the anti-methamphetamine fight, today released the following statement in response to the Administration's unveiling of its 2006 Synthetic Drug Control Strategy. In November, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director John Walters asked Congressman Baird for his input on meth for the 2006 National Drug Control Strategy, which the Synthetic Drug Report is a part of. Today's report reflects many of the Congressman's recommendations.

The meth strategy released today is an encouraging step in the right direction. I am pleased to see the Administration has taken cues from Congress and pledged to devote more time, energy, and resources to combating the international influx of meth and developing substances capable of replacing meth's primary precursors. And I am encouraged to see the Administration embrace the comprehensive Combat Meth Epidemic Act that my congressional Meth Caucus colleagues and I worked so hard to pass. I also applaud the Administration's commitment to reducing meth use by 15 percent over the next three years.

I find it frustrating, however, that the Administration can claim that, "State and local partners are crucial in carrying out the Administration's strategy for the synthetic drug problem (Synthetic Drug Control Strategy page 19)," when mere months ago it proposed slashing federal funding that our state and local law enforcement rely upon to fight meth by 80 percent. My congressional Meth Caucus colleagues and I are now vigorously working to restore these harmful cuts during the appropriations process. I hope next year the Administration will choose to match their rhetoric to their spending priorities.

Today's report also confirmed the Administration's commitment to regional and national meth summits. However, with a large portion of the meth consumed in the U.S. today coming across our borders as finished product or being manufactured here with imported precursor chemicals, it is clear we also need to convene an international meth summit. In December, I called upon the Administration to bring world leaders together to address the international meth problem, and in light of this report, I renew that call again today.

Congressman Baird's key recommendations to ONDCP included in today's Synthetic Drug Strategy include:

- ?Maintain or increase funding for law enforcement programs that target meth

- ?Facilitate communication between local, regional, and federal narcotics task forces

- ?Communicate meth treatment research results to local treatment centers in every state

?Retain or expand the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and Safe and Drug-Free Schools programs

?Focus increased attention on disrupting the international synthetic drug market

?Track the international production and shipment of pseudoephedrine more efficiently

?Focus narcotics intelligence resources on addressing foreign and domestic meth production and trafficking

To read Congressman Baird's November 2005 recommendations to ONDCP Director Walters, go to:  
<http://www.baird.house.gov/images/ONDCPItr110405.html>.

To read more about Congressman Baird's opposition to the federal meth funding cuts proposed in President Bush's Fiscal Year 2007 budget, go to: <http://www.baird.house.gov/images/MethCuts020806.html> and <http://www.baird.house.gov/images/MethEvent022206.html>.

To read more about Congressman Baird's call for an international meth summit, go to:  
<http://www.baird.house.gov/images/MethSummit120805.html>.

Prior to coming to Congress, Congressman Baird was as a clinical psychologist who worked with meth addicts, learning firsthand the destructive potential of the drug. Congressman Baird founded the bipartisan Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine in 2000, and co-authored and co-sponsored the comprehensive Combat Meth Epidemic Act.

For more on the 2006 Synthetic Drug Report visit  
[http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/synthetic\\_drg\\_control\\_strat/index.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/synthetic_drg_control_strat/index.html).

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